

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

New Claims 23-49 are based on original Claims 1-22 and find support in these original claims. No new matter has been entered. Because new method Claims 41-43 depend, ultimately, on Claim 23 they should be included within the allowed set of claims. To the extent necessary, rejoinder is requested.

In response to the Examiner's comment regarding the claim preamble, Claim 23 has been drafted such that the claimed ink composition is formulated such that it is suitable for continuous deflected jet printing. It is to be noted that this limitation is not a preamble, nor is it a statement of ultimate intended utility. Rather, it is a requirement that the claimed ink composition be formulated such that it is suitable for use in the particular field of continuous deflected jet printing. Not all inks are suitable for this use due to their formulation. Thus, present Claim 23 and claims dependent thereon are actively limited such that they must meet this condition.

The recording material of Yuasa does not meet this condition. Specifically, the ink of Yuasa relates to an improvement in a recording material or ink used in the printing process described at column 1, lines 60-68 of the reference, which is not continuous deflected jet printing. Printing in Yuasa is a contact depositing process involving differential adhesiveness between two electrodes.

Importantly, the Yuasa recording material critically relies upon the presence of a "reaction product" described at column 3, lines 33-40 of the reference and only at column 4, at line 27, is the possibility of using propylene carbonate noted. Notably, the recording material of Yuasa must use the so-called "reaction product" and can, in addition, use another solvent. This list of available additional solvents begins at column 4, line 10 and includes at least approximately 30 or 40 such solvents. Water is considered equivalent to propylene carbonate. See column 4, lines 10 and 27. Since the "reaction product" used in Yuasa is

present in a proportion of 20-80 parts by weight (column 4, lines 4-6), the amount of solvent mixed with this reaction product is somewhat limited.

Yuasa does not disclose or suggest the presently claimed ink composition. For example, and as noted throughout the present specification and claims, it is important to limit the amount of water in the claimed composition. Yuasa, on the other hand, equates the use of water with propylene carbonate. In fact, this is not the case, and the amount of propylene carbonate must be more than 70% by weight herein. As noted at specification page 19 of the English translation of the present specification, it has been demonstrated that this proportion is critical if the ink composition according to the invention is to have all the effects and advantages described in the specification, especially in relation to marking quality and indelibility. These properties are demonstrated in the several Examples presented at pages 27 ff of the English translation, which demonstrate the patentability of the present claims over Yuasa.

Accordingly, and because Yuasa equates water and propylene carbonate as secondary solvents available for use in combination with the described "reaction product," it is quite clear that the reference does not describe a recording material formulated such that it is suitable for continuous deflected jet printing, nor does it describe or disclose any ink composition comprising more than 70% by weight propylene carbonate and less than 10% by weight water. These amounts are not arbitrary, and they are not disclosed or suggested by the reference.

Application No. 10/717,663
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Accordingly, and in view of the above amendments to the claims and the demonstrated differences between the recording material disclosed in Yuasa and the presently pending claims, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection, and the passage of this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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